

Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) An interface system for monitoring a number of channels in a communications system having at least one group of a number of nodes, each node having a number of channels, the interface system comprising:

a switch for controlling spectrum analyzer interface with the nodes;
a processor electrically coupled to a local interface;
a memory electrically coupled to the local interface;
a display device electrically coupled to the local interface; and
warning interface logic stored on the memory and executable by the processor
~~to control the switch and the spectrum analyzer during automated channel testing,~~ the warning interface logic including:
logic to enable creation of, based upon user input data, and display of a test
plan and a channel plan corresponding to at least one node
encompassing all expected values for each service to be
operated on said node;
logic to generate a channel percent advisory indicator on the display device
within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated therewith; and
logic to generate a channel critical alarm indicator on the display device
within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated therewith; and
logic to conduct automatic, periodic testing of signal characteristics of the at
least one node according to the channel plan and the test plan.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a group percent advisory indicator on the display device

in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the at least one group.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a node percent advisory indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.
4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a group critical alarm indicator on the display device in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the at least one group.
5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the warning interface logic further comprises logic to generate a node critical alarm indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.

6-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) In a system including a spectrum analyzer and a local interface to which are electrically coupled a switch for controlling the spectrum analyzer, a processor, a memory, and a display device, the memory having stored on it warning interface logic executable by the processor to control the switch and the spectrum analyzer, an interface method for monitoring a number of channels in a communications system having at least one group of a number of nodes, each node having a number of channels, the interface method comprising the steps of:
creating, based upon user input data, and displaying a test plan and a channel plan
corresponding to at least one node encompassing all expected values for each service to be operated on said node;
conducting automatic, periodic testing of signal characteristics of the at least one

node according to the channel plan and the test plan;
generating during automated channel testing a channel percent advisory indicator on
a display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated therewith; and generating during automated channel testing a channel critical alarm indicator on the display device within a channel level interface component upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated therewith.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a group percent advisory indicator on the display device in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the at least one group.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a node percent advisory indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of an advisory event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a group critical alarm indicator on the display device in a group level interface component associated with the at least one group upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the at least one group.

15. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of generating a node critical alarm indicator on the display device in a node level interface component associated with one of the nodes upon an occurrence of a critical event in a channel associated with the one of the nodes.

16. (new) The interface system of claim 1, further comprising logic to conduct more frequent testing of nodes associated with a prior occurrence of advisory events or critical events.

17. (new) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of conducting more frequent testing of nodes associated with a prior occurrence of advisory events or critical events.